Design Resource

Bamboo Jewelry - Agartala, Tripura

Fashion jewelry

by
Prof. Bibhudutta Baral
NID, Bengaluru

Source:
https://www.dsource.in/resource/bamboo-jewelry-agartala-tripura

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Introduction

Tripura is known for its crafts since time immemorial. The place is gifted with artisans who make wonderful craft objects out of simple materials like cane, bamboo, and wood. Their extraordinarily artistic skills have been streamlined in the manufacture of exquisite household pieces. Tripura is a hub of distinct cultures as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Islam have converged together to give shape and content to a unique tradition that found fluent expression through the artworks and crafts that are made of simple materials like bamboo, clay, wood palm leaf, etc. The majority of the lives of Tripura are occupied by cane and bamboo. From the cradle to the grave and all the occasions get completed only with the use of bamboo. The bamboo crafts of Tripura are acknowledged to be one of the best in the country due to their elegance, beauty, and exquisite designs. A large scale of items like furniture, partitions, panels, table mats, lampshades, decorative containers, ceilings, etc., are made of bamboo in this region. These bamboo crafts have great demand and are being exported to various countries. In the present scenario, it is approximated that nearly 200 exquisite products are produced here, and about ten thousand skilled artisans are engaged in the production of these handicrafts in the state.

Since ancient times people have started using bamboo in the fashion industry. Earlier it was mostly used for bustles and corsets, but now it has become the most popular element. The entire world runs behind fashion these days, and the fashion industry has provided a wide range of job opportunities for many people. As the name suggests, fashion jewelry is trendy and is worn for a short period of time. So when fashion changes, then the kind of jewelry also changes its form. Thus who enjoys experimenting in fashion jewelry with unusual designs, shapes, and colours sets the trend-conscious. Fashion jewelry is often known as costume jewelry that refers to trinkets that are not made of real metals or stones. Instead, they are replaced with lighter and cheaper materials. Thus the costume jewelry is made of materials like jute, leather, peppier mache, Bakelite plastic, and bamboo. Due to modern technologies with the combination of materials like hemp, bamboo is used in clothing as well. It is used to produce various accessories like shoes, bags, hats, and jewelry it is used for bracelets, rings, necklaces, and earrings. In the textile industry, bamboo has proved that it is stronger and more durable than cotton or polyester. Often these materials are cut, coloured, and polished in a manner that resembles the authentic version. These are available in several colours in a very attractive way. As these jewelry are readily available, lighter, and cost-effective, they are easily manufactured and are more accessible. As these fashion jewelries are cheaper, it is easier to copy the real jewelry referred to as imitation jewelry.

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The bamboo earrings.

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The artisan involved in the making process of bamboo jewelry.

The red coloured bamboo strips are used for decorative purposes.

Different materials that are used in bamboo jewelry.

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Different types of bamboo bangles.

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Tools and Raw Materials

Tools and raw materials that are used for making bamboo jewelry are as follows:

- **Bamboo:** It is the basic raw material that is used for making bamboo jewelry.
- **Hacksaw:** This is used for cutting the bamboo.
- **Sickle:** The sickle is used for slicing the bamboo into smaller strips.
- **Water:** Water is boiled, and the dying colour is added to die the bamboo strips.
- **Container:** The container is used for boiling the water.
- **Colour:** It is used for dyeing the bamboo.
- **Customized Slotted Tool:** This tool looks like a quilling needle, which is used for rolling the bamboo strips.
- **Glue:** It is used for sticking the ends of the bamboo strips.
- **Sandpaper:** It is used for smoothening the surface.
- **Beads and Stones:** They are used for decorative purposes.
- **Metal Wire:** Metal wire is used as a connecting cord for the entire accessory used to make a jewellery.
- **Metal Hook:** It is used for the earring.
- **Cutting Plier:** It is used to cut off the extra metal wire and shaping it as per the requirement.

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The Bamboo plantation.

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Dyed bamboo strips.

Customized knife tool used to cut the bamboo.

The colourful artificial beads.

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The ring-shaped bamboo strips.

A Customized tool is used in making bamboo jewelry.

The varieties of nuts are used in bamboo jewelry.

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Making Process

Bamboo of three-four years old is cut using a hacksaw. They are sliced into small pieces using a sickle. Further, these pieces are cut into thin slices with equal length. The required amount of bamboo slices are gathered and are further processed for the dyeing process. In a huge vessel, water is boiled, and the required colour is poured into it. The gathered bamboo strips are put in the coloured boiling water and dyed. After dyeing the bamboo strips, they are dried under the sunlight. Further, the bamboo strip is spiraled or shaped and glued at its edge/ end as per the design. The edges are slightly sanded using sandpaper for the smooth finishing. According to the design, the beads and stones are included in-between the shaped bamboo stripe. A metal hook is inserted into it. Thus a beautiful bamboo earring/jewelry is done.

The artisan is cutting the bamboo trees from the plantation.

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The artisan moves the bamboo trees to workplace.

The artisan moves the bamboo trees to workplace.

Artisan divided the bamboo into two half with the customized tool.

Artisan divided the bamboo into two half with the customized tool.

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A bunch of bamboo strips is used in the dyeing process.

Bamboo strips in the dyeing process.

Bamboo strips in the dyeing process.

After the dyeing process bamboo strips are bunched.

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The artisan has started rolling the bamboo strips with hand to make the jewelry.

Artisan is giving the ring shape to the bamboo strip.

The adhesive is used for attaching the rolled strip edges.

The artisan makes the hole on the bamboo strip for inserting the copper wire.

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Artisan is cutting the copper wire with a flush cutter tool.

Inserting the copper wire in a bamboo strip ring.

Inserting the copper wire in a bamboo strip ring.

Artisan combines copper wire with beads and put it into a ring-shaped bamboo strip.

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The artisan is tying the wire and make the bamboo earring.

Beautiful earring made of bamboo strips.

Two pair of earrings.

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Products

Bamboo jewelry is eco-friendly and has a unique appeal. Some of the products available are earrings of various colours, shapes, and sizes. Earrings are made only using bamboo strips, and some earrings are made using a few stones and beads. Multiple designs of bangles are available. The cost of these products varies depending on the size and the work involved in it. It ranges from INR.50 to INR.600.

Two pairs of bamboo earrings.

Beautiful bangles made with bamboo strips.

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Hairpin made with bamboo strips.

The varieties of bamboo jewelry.

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